

The University of Leeds Appeal.

THE appeal of the University of Leeds for 500,000*l.* was launched on Friday, October 23, under excellent auspices. As patron of the appeal, the Duke of York was able to announce in the Majestic Theatre, at a large and representative gathering drawn from all parts of Yorkshire, that the campaign was opened with a total sum, in hand or promised, of 157,039*l.* Considering the depressed industrial conditions at the present time, this can very reasonably be taken as an excellent beginning. The comprehensive nature of the subscription list indicates the widespread interest that has been aroused by the case put forward by the University authorities.

The rapid growth of the University since the War has produced a situation in which it is almost impossible to carry on the work efficiently unless the accommodation is extended. The present number of students is more than twice as large as before the War; the staff has been doubled; but the buildings, save for some temporary erections, remain the same. The work is handicapped by overcrowding and by the use of unsatisfactory temporary sheds and converted dwelling-houses. Departments are split up into several parts separated from one another. The proper co-ordination of the work becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible. In particular, the library, so essential to university work, is in respect of housing most defective of all. With so strong a case to put before the public, it is not surprising that widespread interest has been aroused.

Founded as the Yorkshire College of Science in 1875, and granted a Royal Charter in 1904, the University of Leeds has grown with astonishing rapidity. At the coming of age celebrations last year, delegates from all parts of the British Empire showed their appreciation of the position which it holds at present in university life. The success which has attended it during the last twenty-one years is a measure of its embarrassments at present; and it is to get rid of these embarrassments that the appeal has been put forth. It is intended to substitute for the chaotic collection of private houses and temporary hutments, which at present supplement the premises of the University, a range of buildings suitable for university work, and, at the same time, worthy of the dignity of a university.

The meeting in the Majestic Theatre was a memor-

able one. The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. J. B. Baillie), who, in the enforced absence of the Chancellor, the Duke of Devonshire, presided over the great gathering, opened with an eloquent and felicitous speech, and the high note then struck was maintained throughout. He was followed by the Duke of York, who, in the course of an inspiring appeal, said: "You, as Yorkshiremen, will do well to consider how valuable an asset to your county and your commerce, your industries, and your population, is the University of Leeds. The teaching and research work undertaken in all its forty departments contribute directly and indirectly to the services of the community."

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. J. H. Whitley, M.P., in a message of encouragement and hope, incidentally referred to the fact that he was once a teacher himself, and that in his connexion with education in the West Riding he felt there was "an inexhaustible amount of both talent and character in the humbler homes of our people." The influence of impressive buildings was touched upon in characteristic fashion by the Dean of York (Dr. Foxley Norris), now Dean-elect of Westminster. While not quite convinced that the University of the North ought not to have been at York, he was sent to say that York would do its best to help the scheme for Leeds. Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., who is a native of the West Riding, in a closely reasoned speech, said much to the point upon the functions of a university. He would like to see our universities even more democratic than they are. Without being misunderstood, he would rather see the desired half-million raised by the pound contributions of 500,000 comparatively poor people than by the large and generous gifts of a few wealthy people. He hoped that trade unions, co-operative societies, and other working-class organisations in the West Riding would take up the matter of the appeal and thus show their desire for the extension of democratic education. The Marquis of Hartington, M.P., brought a message of hope and encouragement from his father, the Chancellor of the University. A memorable meeting ended on a note of confidence and optimism, but with the words of the Vice-Chancellor in mind: the first hundred thousand ensures against failure; the last hundred thousand ensures success.

Inheritance and Insanity.

THIS year's Harveian Oration before the Royal College of Physicians of London was delivered by Sir Frederick Mott on heredity in relation to mental disease. A subject of more pressing urgency and general public interest could scarcely have been chosen. The gravest problems of individual ethics and State medicine depend entirely for their solution on the state of our knowledge concerning it; yet precise knowledge is fragmentary and may be misleading.

Sir Frederick Mott cited the inquiries of Miss Agnes Kelley a little more than ten years ago into the pedigrees of three groups of persons: adult patients in the London County asylums, high grade mental defectives, and normal children from the elementary schools of Bethnal Green, London. Insanity was very much more prevalent in the pedigrees of insane persons than in those of mental defectives, being in the proportions of 50 per cent. and 25 per cent. Conversely, mental deficiency was more apparent than insanity in the family histories of the defective children; while the charts of the normal school

showed insanity and mental deficiency only in a very small percentage of cases. Further, Sir Frederick and his co-workers collected information, extending in many instances to four and five generations, concerning 4000 individuals at one time or another in London County asylums, and came to the conclusion that there was a signal tendency to antedating in respect of dementia præcox, manic-depressive insanity and involuntional melancholia: that is to say, if a parent suffered from manic-depressive insanity, or a parent or grandparent suffered from involuntional melancholia or senile dementia, one or more of the descendants might suffer from dementia præcox during adolescence.

Sir Frederick, however, gave no indication of the effect on these conclusions of the present tendency to broaden the clinical conception of stereotyped, adolescent, dementia præcox which fits so neatly into board of control schedules and asylum administration. A parallel criticism occurs in consideration of his views on the genetic origin of this disease set forth in considerable detail in the course of the oration. He

outlines a correspondence between the activity of the interstitial cells of Leydig in the testis and the inception of the great sexual occurrences in ontogeny, the determination of sex and the acquirement of functional activity. Yet he says that *at birth* there was "plenty of evidence of nuclear mitosis, and I came to the conclusion that numbers of the cells had attained maturity and were on the way to a regressive atrophy." At puberty the cells of Leydig reappear, after "commencing manifestations of nuclear activity and karyokinetic figures" at eleven years. What ontogenic event coincides, then, with the "maturity" of these cells at birth?

It is evident that we know far too little of the histological appearances of the endocrine glands at successive ages in the normal animal, and of their influence upon the body functions at different periods or at any period of life. But Sir Frederick Mott is to be congratulated upon a continuity of effort in the elucidation of a baffling problem. It is to be hoped that his great labours, no less than the eminence of his advocacy, will encourage a more concerted attack upon the manifold problems of mental fitness.

The French Congress of Industrial Chemistry.

THE fifth French Congress of Industrial Chemistry was opened at Paris on October 4, under the auspices of the Société de Chimie Industrielle, and was organised in conjunction with the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs at the Grand Palais and with the centenary of Chevreul's discoveries of the nature of fats and his manufacture of the stearine candle. The Congress was preceded by a series of non-technical addresses on the applications of chemistry to a number of industries, and by a reception at the Grand Palais. The formal opening of the Congress on October 5 was presided over by Monsieur de Monzie, the Minister of Public Instruction; it included an address by Sir Robert Hadfield on his own recollections of metallurgy in France. The Congress then resolved itself into sixteen sections, in each of which important papers on many branches of chemical industry were read and discussed. The official banquet was held at the Palais d'Orsay, the chair being taken by Monsieur E. Borel, Minister for the Marine, and the formal adjournment of the Congress took place on October 8 under the presidency of Monsieur C. Chaumet, Minister of Commerce. The following two days were spent in visits to works, one group of those present inspecting factories in the neighbourhood of Paris and a second travelling to Grenoble to visit the international exhibition of water-power and works in the vicinity.

The celebration of the discoveries of Chevreul on fats and oils was held at the National Museum of Natural History, in which Chevreul did his work, on Sunday, October 11. The place of honour was taken by the President of the French Republic, Monsieur Doumergue, and, after a number of short speeches, Prof. Henry E. Armstrong delivered an appreciation of the work of Chevreul and its consequences; the silver gilt medal of the Société de Chimie Industrielle was presented to Prof. Le Chatelier and to Prof. Armstrong. The proceedings terminated in a banquet at the Club, which was during the War the Cercle Interallié and is now La Bienvenue Française. The British delegates to the Congress included Prof. Armstrong, Mr. E. C. Evans, Prof. C. S. Gibson, Mr. A. J. Greenaway, Sir Robert Hadfield, Mr. E. A. Hailwood, Sir Frederick Nathan, Sir W. J. Pope, Dr. S. Miall, Mr. A. R. Smith and Mr. E. A. Umney.

One of the most striking features of this very successful Congress, in addition to the admirable manner in which it was organised and fitted in with the exhibition and the Chevreul centenary, was the fact that quite a number of Cabinet ministers took an active and even an enthusiastic part in the proceedings. Each of these gentlemen, when he spoke, showed a clear appreciation of the importance of pure science and of its applications to industry; it is an unfortunate fact that we cannot imagine a number of Cabinet ministers taking an active and appreciative part in a congress of applied chemistry in Great Britain.

W. J. P.

University and Educational Intelligence.

CAMBRIDGE.—Lists of candidates who have passed the recent First and Second Examinations for Medical and Surgical Degrees have appeared. In the First Examination lists the number of those who satisfied the examiners before matriculating—which in most cases means that they received the necessary instruction at school—is large; the percentages of non-matriculated candidates on the several pass lists being: Pt. 1 (Chemistry), 60 per cent.; Pt. 2 (Mechanics), 80 per cent.; Pt. 3 (Physics), 67 per cent.; Pt. 4 (Biology), 40 per cent. More of these candidates take the examinations in October than at any other season of the year, but the figures quoted emphasise the fact that, while most of the public schools make it their business to prepare boys for the chemistry and physics, not a few are now also able to do so in biology.

Authorisation has been granted for the following reappointments: Dr. Duckworth (reader in human anatomy); Prof. W. E. Dixon (reader in pharmacology); Mr. S. W. Cole (lecturer in medical chemistry); Dr. T. S. Hele and Dr. F. J. W. Roughton (lecturers in biochemistry); Dr. Shillington Scales (lecturer in medical radiology and electrology).

The following have been elected to fellowships at Trinity College: Prof. G. E. Moore, Mr. A. S. F. Gow, Mr. R. V. Southwell, Mr. P. W. Duff, Dr. J. A. Chadwick, Mr. H. O. Evennett, Dr. P. Kapitza.

At Corpus Christi College Mr. T. R. B. Sanders has been appointed lecturer in engineering, while Mr. C. H. E. Smyth and Mr. R. A. Butler have been elected fellows.

At Emmanuel College the following have been awarded Research Studentships: Mr. E. G. Lewis (External), Mr. G. E. Hutchinson (Honorary), and Mr. C. Rimington, whilst grants for research have been made to Mr. A. Sopwith, Mr. W. L. Cuttle, and Mr. R. A. R. Hartridge.

The following reappointments have been made: Mr. J. T. Saunders, fellow and tutor of Christ's College, to be demonstrator of animal morphology; Mr. H. H. Brindley to be demonstrator of biology to medical students.

The Lees Knowles Lectures on military science are to be given by Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G., whose subject will be "Statesmen and Soldiers in the American Civil War."

The degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa* is to be conferred on Sir Edgeworth David, professor of geology at the University of Sydney. There is a pleasant rumour abroad to the effect that Sir David intends to spend some weeks in Cambridge in the near future.

EDINBURGH.—The following changes in the staff have recently taken place: Prof. J. Shield Nicholson has resigned the chair of political economy, which he has held for forty-five years; Prof. Godfrey H. Thomson has taken up duty as professor of education in succession to the late Prof. A. Darroch; Mr. A. D.